



SACOG Board of Directors

Item #09-2-4 Workshop

February 11, 2009

Update on Federal Advocacy

Issue: Update on federal advocacy efforts.

Recommendation: None; this will be an informational report and discussion.

Committee Action/Discussion: SACOG staff and Board Chair Helen Thomson met with representatives of the region's federal delegation the week of February 2, including: Representatives Herger, Matsui, Tauscher, Lungren, Thompson and McClintock. They also met with Senators Feinstein and Boxer as part of the Climate Communities Summit. Staff met with key staff from the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. These committees will lead the surface transportation authorization bill later this year. Meetings were largely positive in response to SACOG's regional effort to be prepared for quick infrastructure project delivery relative to our performance-based MTP2035, our ongoing work on Blueprint implementation and the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, and the regional priority to seek funds for the rail relocation at the Intermodal Station in Sacramento.

At the time of this item, the Conference Committee had just announced agreement on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1), totaling \$789 billion. Congressional leaders suggest Congress will remain in session through the Presidents Day recess until a final stimulus measure is cleared for the President's signature. Staff will update this item as soon as the final details of the bill are available.

In the Government Relations and Public Affairs Committee and previously at the Board meeting, Board members encouraged advocacy with the federal delegation around the benefits of funds coming directly to regions and local governments as the most expedient and effective way to deliver funds to projects and ultimately job creation. Staff will continue to pursue these opportunities at both the State and Federal levels.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:EJ:pm

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